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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

### GLASS TABLE WARE.

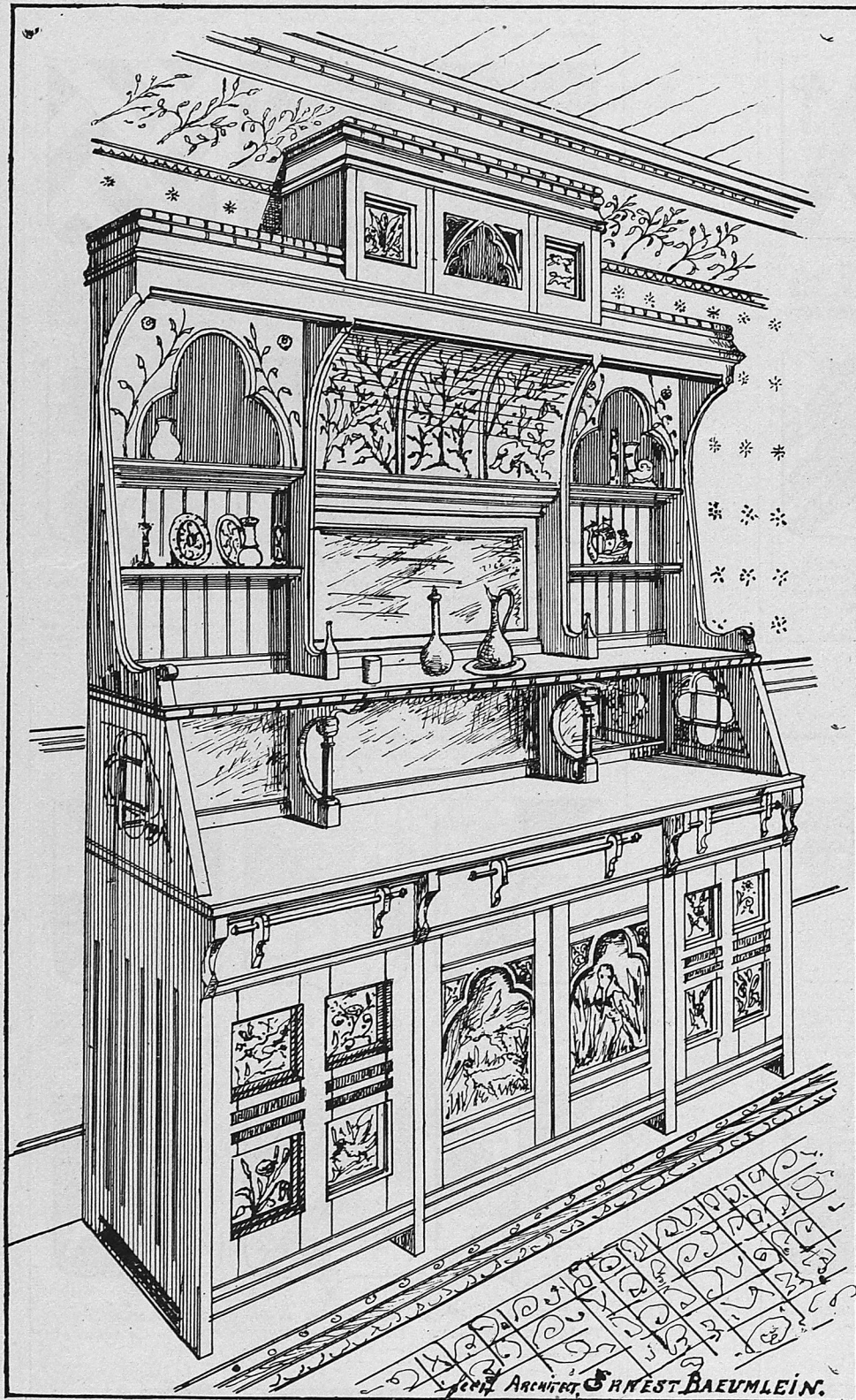
**I**T is ever the aim of recognized leaders of artistic industries to realize the highest degree of excellence. Although in many of these we have to compete with countries possessed of traditional skill, and whose manufacturers have frequently guarded specific processes, the heritage of past times, we are able to announce from time to time gratifying advances, advances achieved far more rapidly than in the old world. Some of our cut glass table ware affords an illustration in point, displaying a brilliancy and finish and gracefulness of design that rivals in these respects the best productions of France and England. It is a perfect pleasure to

explain in words the intricacies of cutting in securing the best effects, particularly in elaborate work. The angles must be so adjusted that the light may be reflected from other surfaces on to each other, so as to intensify the brilliance of the prismatic hues. The niceties of proportion required for graceful effect are admirably illustrated in stems of wine glasses and contours of bowls. Often the variation of one hundredth part of an inch would be like a discord in music. It is remarkable how within what appears such a limited sphere as glass table ware the demands of originality are met. Large and deep dishes, goblets and ewers that have lately attracted our attention for excellence of design and capacity for brilliant scintillations, show above the base clusters of deep cut, shiny stellar-like incised forms, affording brilliant coruscations under artificial light. The finish imparted to the general surface invariably indicates the quality of the glass. The colors of liquids and the tints of flowers, together with colored cloths, when used as at tea service, come to the relief of the natural cool aspect of unstained glass table ware. As to the refractive powers of glass only, in nature and that scantily, and in cut precious stones of a transparent character, can we obtain such delicate and lustrous rays as come from well cut glass of fine quality—rays that now seem to dance on the surface or to flash from within the body of the glass.

For exquisite forms we may refer to articles of the toilet table. The essential purity of the glass assort well with the mirror, and the delicate tints of the hangings appropriate to toilet surroundings. Deeply recessed cutting at various angles are the accepted mode of setting off bottles, jars and trinket receptacles, or should the glass have an opaline or other coating ornament in the way of concave or other forms are cut through it, revealing the pure glass beneath. A late style introduces colored stoppers to toilet bottles of extremely delicate and rich hues; good color contrast are also secured by garnishing them with ribbon bows and streamers.

THE present mode of covering tables with colored cloths has stimulated amateur work in embroidery, which is also extended to cushions and lamp mats. Color presented to the eye as the work of the needle, in simple and elegant well spaced forms, is always welcome to the sight, and however rich in hues has no aggressive aspect, forming an essential portion of the textile it adorns. Many colors are not necessary for fine and rich effects in embroidery. What charming devices, for instance, can be worked in the combination of pale pink, blue and shaded greens with borders of old gold. In some designs sprays of flowers are tastefully displayed as drooping on the overlapping borders. A certain negligé disposal well suits single embroidered flowers, whilst others may be given the appearance of being strewn on the surface. An attractive border is a series of flower wreaths tied with ribbons. There are patterns so designed as to leave a central space, the silk forming the ground, which is painted by hand with minute figures. Sprays in filo floss or tufted colored silk on white silk ground may be rendered very attractive. Minute pictorial views are rendered in appliqué. Many designs are worked in rope linen thread, but colored silk threads are more generally used. Embroidered napery for bedroom tables is given usually a lace or fringe edge. All descriptions of stitches are employed.

WHAT a difference between the amount of mosaic work now done on walls and ceilings and the scale on which it was carried out in former times! Yet it has still the same merit as a decorative feature, for no alterations in styles—and it suits all styles—can set aside its inherent beauty whether in colored marbles, stones, glass or semi-transparent compositions. In Italy and Constantinople mosaics formerly covered large wall surfaces with beautiful combinations of color. The immense mosaics of St. Sophia in Constantinople have almost been obliterated by whitewash—the Mahammedans wishing to obliterate the Christian pictures—some of the outlines of which, however, can be faintly but distinctly traced. Gold, ivory white, greenish white, peacock blue, dark red and chocolate lent the mosaics their rich appearance.



### SIDEBOARD.

handle wine and liquor glasses of this class, to gaze on the sparkling beauty of tumblers, flacons, saltcellars, fruit and other dishes that grace the table as well as the tazzas bearing floral tributes. The refractive brilliancy of flint glass as is well known is due, in addition to skilled cutting, to the incorporation of lead in the material when in a state of fusion, and the difficulty long encountered has been in imparting with this radiant quality the lightness that distinguishes foreign ware. By careful and prolonged experiments some of our glass manufacturers have scored a triumph in this matter. It would be impossible to